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Second U.S. Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) Program Coordination Workshop

January 30-31, 2006

The Conrad Hotel
Bangkok, Thailand

Since the December 2004 tsunami, governments, donors, NGOs, and other organizations have made concerted efforts to develop tsunami warning system capabilities in the Indian Ocean, in large part through the international process led by the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC). Addressing the “end-to-end” requirements of a tsunami warning system—from sea-level observation systems down to local community readiness—is a monumental task. While much progress has already been made through the IOC process, key challenges remain for addressing national and local level needs. “Donor coordination,” including coordination with other important actors such as NGOs and the private sector, remains a critical step in meeting these challenges.

Workshop Objectives. The purpose of this workshop is for the U.S. IOTWS Program team and partner institutions to focus on *national and local-level* implementation of IOTWS-related issues in support of the broader IOC/IOTWS process. These issues include: (1) national warning center and disaster management capacity building; (2) national and local warning communications systems; (3) coastal community resilience and hazard analysis; and (4) coastal disaster mitigation policies and practices. This will be a working session that will rely heavily on group participation to identify opportunities and develop action plans that improve coordination, integration, and synergy in these technical areas.

Who should participate? *Because of time and space limitations each organization is requested to send no more than one or two representatives.* Participants should include *technical project managers* who have direct involvement in project design, development, and implementation. Ideally, the participants will have region-wide understanding of the implementation needs for the five focus countries (see below). To help meet the workshop objectives, participants should be prepared to fully engage in the technical discussions and participate for the entire duration of the workshop.

This workshop is intended for *donors and other implementing organizations* to improve coordination and planning; it will be up to each participating organization to directly engage with national and local counterparts in activity development, design, and implementation as necessary.

Country Focus. The workshop will focus on the countries in which the U.S. IOTWS Program is providing targeted technical support—Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, and the Maldives—the five countries most affected by the December 2004 tsunami. However, other countries may be indirectly addressed in the discussions.

Workshop Structure and Deliverables. The workshop has been designed to maximize participation and identify concrete action items that can be implemented in the five focus countries. The afternoon on Day 1 will begin with an overview of U.S. IOTWS Program activities and presentations of key regional donor initiatives relating to the four topic areas. On Day 2 participants will divide into breakout sessions to focus exclusively on national and local efforts. There will be opportunities in the breakouts for topic-specific presentations to illustrate how activities can be coordinated with other programs and stimulate further discussion. Workshop discussions will build directly from the needs identified in the IOC National Assessments and other assessments to develop action plans that can be implemented on the ground at national and local levels.